

Evening Papers .. 15th May, 1942.

Morning Papers .. 16th May, 1942.

RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1942All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for March Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 1011, Toowoomba 1008, Rockhampton 1017, Townsville 1050, Bundaberg 993, Charters Towers 1018, and Warwick 981.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City.	March Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with		
	Year ended June, 1939.	March Quarter 1941.	December Quarter 1941.
Brisbane ..	17.15	6.42	2.64
Toowoomba ..	18.45	7.53	3.70
Rockhampton ..	18.12	7.39	4.20
Townsville ..	15.13	5.95	2.44
Bundaberg ..	18.07	7.82	3.44
Charters Towers ..	18.37	6.26	2.62
Warwick ..	19.34	7.68	4.03

Clothing and footwear of the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City.	Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941.	Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941.
Brisbane ..	46.32	2.28	11.46	1.63
Toowoomba ..	46.44	3.14	11.39	- 0.27
Rockhampton ..	48.40	4.15	13.65	3.10
Townsville ..	47.86	2.31	11.53	1.18
Bundaberg ..	46.96	3.27	11.20	2.80
Charters Towers ..	43.29	2.27	11.07	1.46
Warwick ..	43.06	4.11	13.17	4.71

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 909, Rockhampton 907, Townsville 963, Bundaberg 874, Charters Towers 873, and Warwick 849.

From December Quarter 1941 to March Quarter 1942, this index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.35, Toowoomba 5.09, Rockhampton 4.73, Townsville 2.77, Bundaberg 3.80, Charters Towers 3.44, and Warwick 3.66.

The Food and Groceries Index rose in all cities by the following percentages - Brisbane 5.33, Toowoomba 7.88, Rockhampton 7.17, Townsville 4.26, Bundaberg 5.17, Charters Towers 4.80, and Warwick 5.32. The increase was mainly due to the rise in the price of potatoes together with smaller increases in butter and eggs.

Rents fell slightly in Rockhampton (0.13%) but showed small rises in the other cities. The percentage increase was - Brisbane 0.12, Toowoomba 0.12, Townsville 0.23, Bundaberg 0.31, Charters Towers 0.16, and Warwick 0.14.

Compared with March Quarter 1941, the combined Food and Rent Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 2.55, Toowoomba 4.97, Rockhampton 3.78, Townsville 1.80, Bundaberg 4.05, Charters Towers 3.80, and Warwick 2.78.

The Food and Groceries Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.86, Toowoomba 7.63, Rockhampton 5.25, Townsville 2.49, Bundaberg 4.95, Charters Towers 4.16, and Warwick 3.60.

Rents also showed small increases in all cities - Brisbane 0.23%, Toowoomba 0.35%, Rockhampton 0.92%, Townsville 0.58%, Bundaberg 1.87%, Charters Towers 2.89%, and Warwick 0.87%.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March Quarter 1942 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19.11	19. 6	19.11	1. 0. 0
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 8	17. 9	1. 0. 8
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 3	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 6
Bundaberg ..	19. 8	1. 1. 0	15. 3	1. 0. 4
Charters Towers	1. 0. 2	1. 1. 2	14.10	1. 0. 1
Warwick ..	19. 5	19. 7	16. 2	1. 0. 1

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State.	METROPOLITAN.				STATE AVERAGES. c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Queensland.	State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1011	4.11. 0	4.11.0a	-	1013	4.11. 8	4.11.8	-
N. S. W.	1070	4.16. 4	4.13.0a	3. 4	1068	4.16. 3	4.13.0	3. 8
Victoria	1056	4.15. 1	4.12.0b	3. 1	1052	4.15. 2	4.11.7	3. 7
South Aust.	1034	4.13. 1	4. 7.0a	6. 1	1029	4.13. 1	4. 7.0	6. 1
West. Aust.	1021	4.11.11	4.10.5a	1. 6	1034	4.13. 7	4.11.6	2. 1
Tasmania	1042	4.13. 9	4. 8.0b	5. 9	1025	4.12. 9	4. 7.0	5. 9

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth basic wage, applicable from first pay period of May 1942. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939.	Year Ending March 1942.	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.	Dec. 1941.	March 1942.
Brisbane ..	917	863	978	950	954	962	985	1011
Toowoomba ..	906	851	969	937	943	952	972	1008
Rockhampton ..	903	861	977	947	953	960	976	1017
Townsville ..	1023	912	1019	991	995	1004	1025	1050
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	956	921	931	940	960	993
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	979	951	955	964	985	1013
Charters Towers	925	860	983	958	965	970	992	1018
Warwick ..	914	822	944	911	923	928	943	981

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939.	Year Ending March 1942.	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.	Dec. 1941.	March 1942.
Brisbane ..	901	852	925	902	882	876	895	925
Toowoomba ..	833	821	909	866	836	846	865	909
Rockhampton ..	858	837	907	874	872	853	866	907
Townsville ..	1047	916	963	946	927	921	937	963
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	874	840	829	827	842	874
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	923	899	879	874	892	923
Charters Towers	942	783	873	841	832	823	844	873
Warwick ..	841	768	849	826	816	808	819	849

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity.		Year Ending June 1939.	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity.	Year Ending June 1939.	MONTH OF	
			Decr. 1941.	March 1942.			Decr. 1941.	March 1942.
		d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread ..	2 lb.	5.33	5.75	5.75	Milk ..	1 qt.	6.00	6.25
Flour ..	2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon(Rashers) ..	1 lb.	14.81	15.83
Tea ..	1 lb.	26.99	41.77	39.68	Beef - Sirloin ..	1 lb.	8.73	11.45
Sugar ..	1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.97	Roast ..	1 lb.	11.45	11.00
Jam (Plum) ..	1½ lb.	8.02	8.97	9.07	Beef - Steak ..	1 lb.	11.34	15.30
Raisins ..	1 lb.	10.57	11.64	11.73	Rump ..	1 lb.	11.34	15.30
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	14.88	12.77	21.86	Beef - Rolled ..	1 lb.	11.34	15.30
Onions ..	1 lb.	2.93	2.95	2.86	Brisket ..	1 lb.	5.48	7.45
Soap ..	1 lb.	6.20	6.24	6.24	Mutton - leg ..	1 lb.	7.75	7.75
Butter ..	1 lb.	19.00	19.00	20.00	Mutton - chops ..	1 lb.	7.75	8.40
Cheese ..	1 lb.	13.23	13.27	14.64	Loin ..	1 lb.	7.78	7.50
Eggs ..	1 doz.	19.69	15.63	22.50	Pork - Leg ..	1 lb.	11.40	11.85